

A. A. Phelps to

W. Cummings Jan 26. 1843.

7 Resignation of Dr. Com: of

Mass. Ab. Soc'y.

East Boston Jan. 26. 1843.

Bro. Cummings,

I have just received the enclosed. I have been confined to my house and bed most of the time since I saw you with some of the Representatives at the Office, and am dictating this at the hazard of giving a fresh unfavorable turn to my disease. The note in question was not given with any idea of its going into any Bank, ~~or other hands~~ but to be held as security, in case the large note in question was not paid. The facts in the case were these. Gove said that his name, or the name of his firm might be used, on condition that a certain number of the Committee would give him their personal obligation to the amount of \$200 each, to be called for in case he had the note to pay, and then left the Committee. We were at that time, saying around, how much of the debt Stock we would severally take. Three or four of the brethren present, agreed to take \$200 of the stock, and gave their notes to Gove accordingly, with the understanding, that if called on to pay them, they would receive the note of certificate of the Society, to their having taken that amount of stock. I was already by pledge, or otherwise, indebted to the Society about \$50, and consented to take enough of the stock to make it \$100, and offered to give my note for \$100 to Gove, with the

condition that if called to pay it at maturity, so much of it as might be necessary should be reckoned as the payment of ~~that~~ my former indebtedness, and for the balance, whatever it might be, I would receive a certificate of stock like the others. But that would not do. Brother Gove had left the Committee with his ultimatum. The Committee was not full. One more \$200 note was needed, and there was no other person to give it except myself. The other members of the Committee said that if I would sign a note for \$200, \$100 of the fair money should be pledged to pay the additional \$100. Whereupon I consented. The notes having been prepared and signed, Alden, at my request, wrote upon the bottom of mine, that if I were to be called on for its payment, when due, I must have, at least, a week's notice, ~~at~~ <sup>in</sup> which, it is obvious, I had not the most distant idea of the note's ever going into any bank.

Since the giving of the note, my family has been visited with sickness, in consequence of which, I have had from \$150 to \$300 of extra expenses to pay. I ~~had~~ <sup>have</sup> no funds. Should I be taken away now, I should leave my children penniless. My present prostration of health is to be traced, as immediately as to any other cause, to the over draft made upon my mental strength, in order to secure the ~~depos~~ <sup>depos</sup> of time, which I gave to the Society in our re-vision. As I then stated, I was then preaching a course of sermons to my people on Prophecy, which with my other duties, was all that I was really able to do, and the fact was, that the time I spent in the city, making the new arrangements, had to be made up, to a considerable extent, by severe midnight study.

The note of course, I cannot pay. Should I live, all my real obligations to the Society, I will endeavor to make good, but the present occurrence, and my own present condition, alike satisfy me, that it will not do for me to retain a connexion, where I shall be laid under the temptation of doing pecuniary injustice to myself and family, or of being exposed to ~~these~~ mental responsibilities, ~~and~~ which I cannot easily meet. I wish this letter, therefore, while a statement of the facts in this particular case, to be received and regarded as an unconditional resignation of my membership in the Board.

I am sorry to leave the brethren thus, but it is a measure of responsibility, which my health, if not life, absolutely demands.

Yours truly,  
A. A. Phelps.

Resignation as a member of  
the Executive Committee of  
the Mass. Abolition Society

Jan 26. 1843.